From: Dave Nichols
To: mdove@fec.gov
Subject: Comment on DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2007-31
Date: 12/10/2007 04:15 PM

Commission Secretary
Federal Election Commission

Re: Comment on DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2007-31

It is my understanding that the Commission has prepared DRAFT ADVISORY OPINION 2007-31 which would hold that donations through on-line forums for donating to candidates for Federal Office (e.g., ActBlue) are not matchable for public financing purposes. I find this position to be contrary to the pubic interest advanced by the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971. The Act had the purpose of enhancing the public's access to and interest in the election of the President of the United States. It was enacted in response real and perceived limitations to the role of the average citizens in the electoral process as PACs, businesses, wealthy donors and Unions increasing dominated the funding of our Presidential candidates. ActBlue serves the intent of the 1971 Act by allowing small donors such as myself to securely donate to candidates. Through the site I am able to determine which candidates I choose to fund, when I fund them and in what amount I donate. I can set up a segregated donation page for any candidate so that others who know me can donate through that vehicle.

I urge the Commission to reject the Advisory Opinion. Donations through on-line forums should be matched as long as the donations comply with all FEC regulations (e.g., limitation on amount, reporting of the name, occupation, etc. of the donor).

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